

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 INRE-00 SSO-00

/063 W

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O 211546Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4592

USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS VIENNA 0510

BRUSSELS FOR FAGAN; USDOC FOR OED

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EINV, BTIO, AU

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION -- VOEST ALPINE
INTEREST IN AMERICAN COAL

1. LAST FRIDAY AUSTRIA'S IRON AND STEEL COMBINE, VOEST ALPINE, CELEBRATED COMPLETION OF FIVE YEAR EXPANSION PROGRAM AND INITIATION OF NEW PROJECTS THAT WILL INCLUDE WIRE DRAWING MILL AND CONTINUOUS CASTING PLANT (ON WHICH WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED). FESTIVITIES WERE ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT KIRCHSCHLAEGGER, CHANCELLOR KREISKY, REPRESENTATIVES OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND LEADING GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS. DURING CONVERSATION AT THIS FUNCTION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER, OFFICIAL OF FEDERAL CHANCELLERY MENTIONED VOEST'S STRONG INTEREST IN JOINING WITH AN AMERICAN FIRM THROUGH INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING NEW SOURCES OF SUPPLY OF US METALLURGICAL COAL FOR VOEST. IT WAS NOTED THAT CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE WOULD WELCOME SUCH A DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEXT OF GOA'S DESIRE TO DIVERSIFY AUSTRIA'S OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE CONNECTIONS AS COUNTERBALANCE TO AUSTRIA'S GROWING ECONOMIC TIES WITH EASTERN EUROPE AND WEST GERMANY.

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2. EMBASSY HAS SCHEDULED ONE OF ITS REGULAR COMMERCIAL VISITS IN LINZ, MONDAY, JANUARY 27, AND AT THAT TIME ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUSELOR HAS APPOINTMENT WITH VOEST'S TOP EXECUTIVE OFFICER, GENERAL DIREKTOR DR. KOLLER. ALTHOUGH PRIMARY PURPOSE THIS CALL WILL BE TO FURTHER EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR US FIRMS IN ABOVE CITED VOEST EXPANSION PLANS, BELIEVE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE VOEST INVESTMENT IN US WILL BE MENTIONED. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THIS INTEREST AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON PROSPECTS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN COAL MINING ENTERPRISES IN US. WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY NO LATER THAN JANUARY 24. HUMES

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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